

Key Vocabulary	
Danelaw	The area of England ruled by the Vikings.
Longship	A Viking ship with a sail and oars. Sometimes called dragon-ship.
Chronicle	A history of England begun in the 800s.
Blood-feud	An argument between two families that involves fighting or killings.
Conquer	To beat an enemy and control them using force.
Settlement	An area where people live.
Chieftain	The leader of a village or small group of people.
Landmark	A natural feature that helps a traveller find his way, such as a mountain, a rock, an island, or a group of trees.
Norse myths	Stories told by the Vikings about gods and goddesses, giants and strange creatures.
Invaders	People who try to take over land from other people.
Hoard	A hidden treasure, usually buried in the soil.



The Viking age in European history was from about AD700 to 1100. During this period many Vikings left their homelands in Scandinavia and travelled by longboat to other countries, like Britain and Ireland. When the people of Britain first saw the Viking longboats, they came down to the shore to welcome them. However, the Vikings fought the local people, stealing from churches and burning buildings to the ground. The people of Britain called the invaders 'Danes', but they came from Norway and Sweden as well as Denmark.

Alfred the Great (849-899) was the most famous of the Anglo-Saxon kings. Despite overwhelming odds he successfully defended his kingdom, Wessex, against the Vikings. He also introduced wide-ranging reforms including defence measures, reform of the law and of coinage. He was a keen champion of education and translated important texts from Latin into English. Known as a just and fair ruler, Alfred is the only English King to have earned the title 'the Great'.

Investigating sources:

Primary sources - Original materials that were created during the time being studied or by someone with first-hand knowledge of the event.

Examples of primary sources include: historical documents, letters, eyewitness accounts, speeches, photography and artefacts.

Secondary sources - tell you about an event but is from a time after the event.

Examples of secondary sources include: textbooks, Historical documentaries magazines and encyclopaedias.

